GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Payment of compensation for temple land and implementation of R & R Package which are taken over for various projects – Clear instructions issued - Regarding.

REVENUE (ENDTS.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 298 Date:18.08.2015

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ORDER:

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that several departments which are undertaking various programs and projects have taken over temple lands and not paid compensation to the temples concerned even after a delay of several years. Some LAOs as also Collectors and HoDs are under the mistaken notion that temples properties are Government properties and as a consequence they need not pay any compensation to Hindu temples.

Some glaring instances of this line of thinking include the Pulichintala Project, Gandikota Reservoir Project, the lands taken over by the Housing department etc. wherein they have not paid compensation to the temples whose lands they have taken over even to this day. These departments have also not implemented the complete Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) Package envisaged by the Government to the temples concerned.

In this regard, **the following instructions are issued**:

Hindu temples and their properties are not Government properties. These temples have never been constructed by Government with taxpayers money. They were built only by Hindu Philanthropists, Mutts, Peetams, Zamindars etc since ancient times. Government is only acting as a sacred trustee of temple property and has brought the Endowment Act permitting itself to administer the Hindu temples for the benefit of Hindu society. Hence, under no circumstances Hindu temples can be treated as Government property.

1. Recently the Commissioner (R&R), Irrigation department has requested the Govt. to bring a uniform policy with regard to reconstruction of temples and also transplantation of old temples which have architectural importance. Since Hindu temples are private organizations which belong to Hindu community and not to

the Government they have to be paid full compensation as is being paid for all private properties by the LAO.

2. As regards construction of temples/transplantation of temples, it is clarified that the Irrigation Department does not have necessary competence to build temples as per Agama Sastra. It requires knowledge of Shilpa Sastra as well as Agama Sastra. The Endowments Department has a cadre of Sthapathis who are trained in Shilpa Sastra (temple architecture) and Agama Sastra. Hence, the Irrigation Department need not undertake any construction or transplantation of temples. The Endowment Department will prepare the detailed estimates for reconstruction / transplantation of these temples which may be accepted and necessary funds released by the LAO/Irrigation department to the Endowments Department hereafter.

3. All the LAOs are directed to pay full compensation for the lands taken over from temples under any irrigation project in the state. These rules hold good to all other departments who are similarly placed by R&B, Panchayat Raj, Public Health, Housing, MA&UD etc.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

J.S.V. PRASAD
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
1) The Commissioner of Endowments, AP Hyderabad.
2) All Regional Joint Commissioners of Endowments department in the State through CED.
3) All Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of A.P. Secretariat for kind information.

// FORWARDED :: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER